THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Three Doordarshan Kendras at Hyderabad, Vijaywada and Warangal and twelve All India Radio Kendras at Anantapur, Adilabad, Cuddapah, Hyderabad, Kurnool, Kottagudam, Markapuram, Nizamabad, Tirupati, Vijaywada, Vishakhapatnam and Warangal are currently functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Digitalisation is a continuous and on-going process. However, so far as A.P. is concerned, Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) at Hyderabad was digitalized during 2004-05 at a cost of Rs. 12 crore. DDK, Vijaywada is envisaged to be partially digitalized during 2005-06 at a cost of Rs. 2 crore. Digitalization of DDK, Warangal would depend upon the availability of resources in future plans.

As regards, AIR, digitalization schemes completed in the State are: (i) Hard Disk based recording, playback and editing system at nine centres. (ii) Upgradation of Captive Earth Station for Digital mode at Hyderabad. (iii) Digital studio transmitter link at Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam. As part of digitalization, a sum of Rs. 77 lakh has been proposed for fifty numbers of Hard Disk Based System work stations.

Fund collected from foreign and domestic broadcasters

1432. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign broadcasters are paying very low tax to Government as compared to the domestic broadcasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds collected from the foreign and domestic broadcasters during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to collect the tax from foreign broadcasters at par with the domestic broadcasters?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Advertisements through DAVP

1433. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings have not reacted positively to the recent decision of asking public sector companies to release their advertisements only through Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity;

(b) whether public sector companies feel that DAVP has centralized operation in Delhi whereas public sector companies have decentralized their publicity initiatives;

(c) if so, whether is it proposed to review the order suitably;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) The Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal agency for multi media publicity of the policies, programmes and achievements of the Central Government Ministries/Departments including Public Sector Undertakings.

The Standing Committee on Information Technology in their report on 'working of DAVP' had expressed concern over the violation of instructions regarding routing of advertisements through DAVP and had laid stress on monitoring violation. Accordingly, all Ministries/Departments including PSUs and Autonomous Bodies were asked to route their publicity work through DAVP.

In response a number of PSUs are routing their advertisements through DAVP. Though the release of advertisements is centralized yet a number of organisations located outside Delhi have been using the services of DAVP without any difficulty. There is no proposal to review the procedure relating to routing of advertisement through DAVP, as on date.

Pending cases in courts and recruitment of judges

1434. SHRI DARA SINGH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of cases are piling up in various High courts of the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor indicating the number of pending cases during the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(c) whether Chief Justice of India has urged Government to introduce a new system of recruitment of Judges by holding an entrance test to fill up the large number of such vacancies, on the model of the civil services examination; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?